addition, ONGC holds two blocks, namely KK-DWN-2000/2 and KK-DWN-2000/4, in this deep water area under New Exploration Licensing Policy (NELP) wherein it carried out about 6,000 LK each of 2-D seismic, gravity and magnetic surveys.

Decanalising import of Petroleum Products

717. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to decanalise import of Petroleum Products;

(b) if so, by when; and

(c) whether these imports will jeopardize the existing refineries in the country and whether Government are planning for such contingencies as well if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) and (b) The policy regarding import of petroleum products is covered within the Exim Policy 2002-2007. However, imports of petroleum products like Motor Sprit (MS), High Speed Diesel (HSD), Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF), Light Diesel Oil (LDO) etc. are allowed through Indian Oil Corporation Limited as State Trading Enterprise subject to para 2.11 of Exim Policy. The Director General of Foreign Trade may grant a licence/certificate/permission to any other person to import any of these products.

(c) Imports of petroleum products *inter-alia* depend on domestic demand, duty structure that would impact on import and export possibilities, refining margin and export potential for the products. The refining sector has been delicenced since June, 1998 and, as such, the indigenous production of petroleum products, in excess of the domestic demand, would need to be exported. To the extent imports of products materialise, exports would be higher.

Bidding for HPCL

718. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for Government's proposal to give HPCL's Bhatinda